

## Resources

For a referral to low cost or free legal service in your area (if you qualify) call the Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral (CLEAR) system for Washington State:

### CLEAR

888-201-1014

Or go to: [www.washingtonlawhelp.org](http://www.washingtonlawhelp.org)

## Laws

- Uniform Interstate Family Support Act (UIFSA)  
RCW 26.21A
- Section 459A(a) of Title IV-D of the Social Security Act  
42.U.S.C. 659A(a)

To contact other states go to:

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/css)

## Courts

[www.courts.wa.gov/](http://www.courts.wa.gov/)

## Division of Child Support

[www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/](http://www.dshs.wa.gov/dcs/)

## E-mail

[DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:DCS-CRU@dshs.wa.gov)

## International child support questions

[ocseinternational@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:ocseinternational@acf.hhs.gov)

or

[travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

## Division of Child Support Offices:

<b>Everett</b> .....	800-729-7580 425-438-4800
<b>Kennewick</b> .....	800-345-9981 509-374-2000
<b>Olympia</b> .....	800-345-9964 360-664-6900
<b>Seattle</b> .....	800-526-8658 206-341-7000
<b>Spokane</b> .....	800-345-9982 509-363-5000
<b>Tacoma</b> .....	800-345-9976 253-597-3700
<b>Vancouver</b> .....	800-345-9984 360-696-6100
<b>Wenatchee</b> .....	800-535-1113 509-886-6800
<b>Yakima</b> .....	800-441-0859 509-249-6000
<b>Headquarters</b> .....	800-457-6202 360-664-5000

If you would like to open a case with the Division of Child Support, you can visit your local child support office, contact us at 800-442-KIDS (5437), or go to our web site at:

[www.childsupportonline.wa.gov](http://www.childsupportonline.wa.gov)

## Washington State's Child Support Program



## Collecting Child Support Across State Lines



*Transforming lives*

DSHS 22-616 (Rev. 5/16)



*Transforming lives*

## Can I collect child support if the other parent is in another state?

Yes. When the other parent lives in another state the Division of Child Support (DCS) may send a notice for wage withholding and health insurance directly to the employer.

Sometimes, DCS asks other states for help enforcing a support order. When we send a referral to another state, we cannot tell the other state how to work the case. Each state has its own child support laws and policies.

DCS can also collect from a parent in Washington State for a custodial parent living in another state.

## How do I ask DCS for services?

If you receive public assistance from Washington State, DCS is already working to collect support. DCS may ask you to update information about the other parent's address or employer.

If you believe that DCS actions could be dangerous for you or the children in your household, contact the Community Services Office to request "good cause not to cooperate with DCS".

Also, if you feel that releasing your address or other information to the other party could be dangerous, let DCS know and we can tell the other state to keep that information under seal.

If you do not receive public assistance, DCS provides enforcement services for you upon written request. You can get forms online at [https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/faq?field\\_topic\\_value=childservice](https://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/faq?field_topic_value=childservice).



## How long will it take to collect child support from another state?

If DCS asks the other state for help, it may take longer to set up your case. Other factors that can delay case set up include actions by the other parent such as:

- Moving from job to job.
- Changing residences frequently.
- Becoming unemployed and not receiving unemployment compensation.
- Working for cash.
- Self-employment.
- Receiving public assistance.
- Entering jail or a rehabilitation facility.
- Living on an Indian reservation.
- Accepting employment by a tribe, tribal enterprise, or an Indian-owned business located on an Indian reservation or trust land.

## What if the other state is not successful?

In all cases, both states continue to check federal, state, and local resources for the other parent's address and assets.

## Is there a charge for these services?

DCS charges a twenty-five dollar (\$25) fee each federal fiscal year (between October 1 and September 30) if the Custodial Parent has never received TANF or AFDC, and if DCS has disbursed \$500 or more to the family on the case during the fiscal year.

If another state helps collect support, that state might charge fees or recover the costs of their services. A state may charge the paying parent or the custodial parent. The state may take these charges out of support collected from the paying parent.

## Can the other state change the support payment amount or the amount of back support the other parent owes me?

States must honor orders, as they are written, by another state. All states enforce only one order for the same parties. At any time, either parent can petition for a modification of the monthly child support amount.

## Can I collect child support if the other parent lives in another country?

Sometimes, DCS has international agreements that allow us to work with several foreign countries. To check on a foreign country, please give us a call at 1-800-457-6202.

## I do not have a support order. How do I get one?

A support order may be established if the other parent does not live here. To receive an application for support enforcement services, call 800-442-KIDS (5437) or call the office nearest you listed on the back of this brochure or online at: <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/esa/child-support-find-an-office>.

## All information in DCS records is confidential

You can have someone (a relative, friend or legal representative) call DCS on your behalf. We can answer general questions for anyone, but we cannot discuss specific case details unless we have your written permission.